

Growing Marijuana Indoors in Colorado: The Cheaper and Easier Way

Chapter 1 - Introduction

This guide was written to be a basic as well as comprehensive manual for growing high quality marijuana in Colorado. The following information is the opinion of the author and has been proven and tested by him alone. By no means is this the end all and be all of growing cannabis as there are many different techniques that have proven results. However, this guide will help you to both successfully grow great looking plants while showing you how to drastically keep costs down. All experience by the author was done within the bounds of the law within the great state of Colorado and this guide is for those residing in this state.

There is a ton of information on growing marijuana freely available to anyone with a computer and the internet these days. It seems like everyone has a different way of growing and it can be very difficult for the newbie to differentiate what is necessary for a successful grow and what isn't. This guide should show you a very easy and cheap way to get just as much yield as anyone else spending a fortune on unneeded supplies and equipment. Craigslist.org has proven to the author to be an amazing resource for finding what is needed for very cheap and also very quickly. Why buy it brand new anyway? Use Craigslist effectively and you will save hundreds if not thousands on supplies and time. This guide focuses on growing indoors with soil, not hydroponics or outdoors. These other types of growing methods will be discussed in a separate guide at a future date.

The important thing to remember if you get nothing more from this guide is that growing marijuana isn't rocket science. Even if you do a bad job of growing, you will at least come away with an ounce or two of your very own home grown weed. It's a very rewarding hobby to get into and should be a lot of fun if you follow the recommendations of the author. Pay attention now cause here we go!

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Growing Space

Chapter 2 The Beginning Basics

Okay, the first step in your quest to grow marijuana is to find a proper grow space. The author currently grows plants in an area 5' by 10'. It is a closet area located right next to the crawl space of the house which allows for proper ventilation. What you are looking for in a grow space is an area that is secure from children, pets, and other unwanted intruders. It's actually the law to grow in a secured environment, so make sure to put a lock on the door into your grow room should that be your route. The area should also be as big as you can possibly make it. In the state of Colorado, 6 plants can be grown at one time for most people unless you have other extenuating circumstances. This means that 3 can be flowering at one time. An area 3' by 3' is just about the smallest area you could have and still flower 3 plants at one time.

When evaluating a grow area it is also important to make sure you can properly ventilate it. If you follow the recommendations of this guide, you will be using lights that emit a lot of heat. A properly ventilated grow room will help you avoid overheating your plants as well as making sure they are receiving fresh air at all times. With that being said, if you can find a grow space that is near a window, crawl space, or some other area where you can use a fan or fans to route old air out and bring fresh air in then that would be perfect.

It is also important that the floor of your grow room be some sort of material that you won't mind getting wet. No matter how hard you try, you are going to constantly be spilling water

and dirt on the floor and this can become a problem if it's a carpeted area. While this type of area is not ideal, you can still grow effectively, but be as careful as you can with spills.

Another factor is finding an area with a lot of height in the room. If you follow the recommendations of this guide then you can expect your plants to grow anywhere from 4-6 feet tall when they are just about ready to harvest. Make sure you are going to have room. If you don't have a tall area then this is okay as well. More information on how to stunt your plants growth will be explained later on.

Now a days, finding a grow space has become easier with the addition of grow tents in the market. These grow tents can be found on [Craigslist.org](https://www.craigslist.org) used and new. They are at least a couple hundred dollars used and that is why the author has never used one. Having one is not necessary to grow marijuana but can be utilized if a suitable room cannot be found. The advantage of using a tent is that everything can be contained in one small compact area. Growing tents can also be made from scratch by visiting any hardware store but if you can get one on [Craigslist](https://www.craigslist.org) for a couple hundred dollars then that is probably the easier, more cost effective way.



Time is also a factor for the grow room. Based on your growing technique, to take plants to maturity could take anywhere from 2.5 months to 4 months from start to finish so make sure you aren't going to be needing the space you are using to grow for any other application.



Alright, so you've read the preceding paragraph and maybe you live in an apartment or just don't have any suitable place to grow marijuana. Don't worry, not all is lost. There are various techniques for growing that will work with maybe just a closet, a garage, or an attic even in the winter months. If you wanted to grow just one plant, then an area 1.5' by 1.5' would work just fine. As stated earlier, the plants can sometimes get pretty tall but if you don't have an area that allows you to keep a 6' plant, there are other ways to grow indoors. Keep reading because it will be explained later on how to deal with the "Not So Ideal" grow spaces. Whatever you do, don't give up hope. The author has found that almost any environment can be used to grow high quality marijuana.

Pots

The bigger the better if you can. In the authors' opinion, nothing less than 5 gallon pots should be used long term. The roots of a marijuana plant expand very rapidly and you want them to have as much room to grow as possible.



The author has grown marijuana in 2 gallon pots but has noticed that the yield is not as great as if he had used 5 gallon units or more. Pots are super cheap if you know where to look. Pretty much wherever you live, there are painters near you. They always have extra 5 gallon paint buckets laying around that they usually just give away for free. The first place to go is, again, Craigslist. Check out the Free section and there are usually a few painters giving away hundreds of these buckets. This is the case in Denver at least. Don't worry about them having paint in them either. With a little hot water and some scrubbing with steel wool, they can be cleaned out in five minutes and used to grow marijuana very effectively. Just clean them out and drill about 5 holes in the bottom for drainage, get yourself a tray to collect water runoff, and you are all set. The cheapest plastic trays are all you need and can be found at any gardening center, Walmart, or Lowes for around a dollar each. Just about any plate, or Tupperware can be used to collect the water run off as well. So if you have read this entire paragraph and for some reason you just can't find a 5 gallon bucket then again, not all is lost. Techniques will be explained further along in this guide to show you how to grow marijuana with a smaller pot.



Soil

Soil is key, absolutely key. If there is one aspect of growing marijuana that you shouldn't screw up then it's the soil. Don't just use dirt from the backyard or any old soil from the hardware store. Marijuana soil should contain all the essential nutrients and properties that the plant needs to grow. Picking good soil can also save you money because you're picking dirt that has already been infused with nutrients. This means you don't have to buy expensive nutrients later on as the soil comes with them inside anyway. With that being said, the author uses Happy Frog soil almost exclusively. It contains the right amount of nutrients to get the plants a solid start. He feels that if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Happy Frog soil is by no means the end all be all of soils but happens to be what the author started out on and hasn't changed since day one of growing. There are many soils which would be perfect but don't pay too much for them. A 2' cubic bag shouldn't cost you any more than \$16. Again, look on Craigslist and search in the "For Sale" section for Happy Frog soil and there should be a few people selling it. Stay away from used soil because the nutrients have been depleted already. Again, soil is key. Make sure to start your plants out right.



Temperature

The author has found that the temperature isn't super important to the growth or yield of marijuana plants as long as it is kept between 60 and 80 degrees. The author accomplishes this with the means of a portable heater in the winter time and strategic fans in the summer. With the lights that the author is going to recommend, it could get hot in the grow room depending on how you have it set up. Growing indoors makes it a lot easier to keep the temperatures in line as marijuana grows at around the same temperature that most people maintain their house at. Also, don't worry if you are growing indoors in the winter time and your grow room gets cold. You can easily go pick up that little electric heater from Walmart with an adjustable thermostat so that you don't have to mess with it, just set it to 65 degrees

for instance and leave it be. Also, be aware that when you are flowering your plants, your lights will be on for 12 hours and off for 12 hours. When the lights are on, the grow room will heat up, and when the lights are off, it will get much colder, so make sure you are aware and adjust for these changes in temperature.



Lights

Wow, lights are a definite essential for growing just about any living plant. Marijuana is no different. Plants need the sun to grow and since you will be growing indoors, you will need to recreate the sun inside your grow room. Lights with the most wattage are best. There are a wide variety of lighting options but the author recommends using High Pressure Sodium lights, or HPS. This has been the cheapest and best light to use depending on where you are growing. If you have a well ventilated room then always go with the HPS. A lot of people will tell you to go with LED's but these types of lights are more expensive and we're trying to cut down on costs in this guide. There are other options for lighting as well but for the most part, they are more expensive and the author just sticks with what he knows. Not a lot of detail will be given in this guide about lumens, or other technical knowledge about lights. All you need to know is that the more wattage the light has, the better. The author is a big fan of 1000W HPS lighting fixtures. Under one of these lights you could grow between 4-6 plants and get somewhere in the range of 12-15 oz yield after 3 months of growing. A 1000W HPS complete setup can be found on Craigslist.org for roughly 120-140 dollars. Very inexpensive. Be aware that your electrical bill will go up once you start keeping your lights on for 24 hours a

day but the benefits of having your own crop outweigh the expense.



HPS lights emit a lot of heat so if your grow room is small then you will have to have some sort of ventilation system which will be discussed in much further detail a little later in this guide. Don't worry too much about the type of bulb you buy either. The author has found that any horticulture bulb works. If your lighting setup doesn't come with a bulb then a 1000W HPS bulb, brand new, can be found on Amazon.com for roughly \$35 including shipping. Be careful of buying so called "New Bulbs" on Craigslist as you can't tell if they are really new. It's not much more expensive to just order a new one online and you will be assured that your bulb has a lot of life left in it. In general, one bulb will last you two grow cycles or about 6 months of use. Good deal. As far as how far away from your plants you want the lights to be, you should keep them as close to the tops of your plants as you can without burning them. The farther away your lights are, the more light you are losing that could be helping the plants grow. The way to tell if you are close enough is to place your hand about the same distance from the light as your plants are. If it's too hot to keep your hand there for 30 seconds, then raise the lights. You want to maximize the light energy but not burn the plant. In the common problems section, you will be instructed on how to recognize light burn on your plants. If you

can't get your hands on a 1000W HPS, then you can also get a 400 or 600 watt light fixture and this will work fine but but the author would recommend that you don't try to grow 6 plants. Two to three plants would grow better under smaller HPS light fixtures. Don't get caught up in some new and improved light that costs \$1000 or more. People have been growing marijuana with HPS for decades now and have consistently seen large yields. Don't get sold something that you really don't need. If you need to really keep the heat down and just can't get an HPS light fixture then LED's would be the authors next best choice. They cost more but do produce results that are impressive, not to mention that you will save money on your electric bill. If you are growing in the summer and have a small enclosed area, then LED's should be your lights. Aside from HPS, Metal Halide, and LED's, the author doesn't have any further recommendations. Again, he has found a very effective lighting system and if it isn't broken, then don't fix it.



Water

The author uses regular Colorado tap water and has never had any ill effects. He makes sure that the water has a PH of 6 but hasn't spent the money on a filtration system. If you really want to use filtered water then that will be ideal but be prepared to purchase some sort of RO/DI system or pre-filtered water which can be expensive. The most important aspect of the water you use is that it be within the optimum PH range for your plants. If the water is not within the 5.5-6.5 range then your plants will suffer. They won't be able to uptake any of the special nutrients you are going to be giving them. There are many affordable PH kits that you

can use to both test and modify your water so that it is within the appropriate range. Any grow shop will be able to point you in the right direction but don't pay more than \$10-\$15.

Ventilation and Air Flow

Ventilation is important. You should have at least one fan in your grow room to provide circulation to your plants. You want the plants to sway gently in the wind making sure that the oxygen they are releasing is blown away with fresh air and CO₂ for the plant to absorb. The author uses a fan that rotates so that it blows evenly over the crop. The second reason to have good ventilation is because of heat. If you are using the author's recommended 1000W HPS light then you will have heat that probably will need to be removed from the grow room as to avoid overheating. Different kinds of fans are used for this purpose. They are called inline fans and once again, can be found rather inexpensively on Craigslist. You will probably need 2 inline fans in your grow room. One to bring fresh air into the room and one to route the old, hot air out. This can be achieved with ducting you can find from any hardware store. This is why the author stated earlier that situating your grow room near a window or crawl space is so important.



Watering

Watering is important. Assuming you start with some sort of marijuana clone, once it is transplanted into a mother pot, watering should be done with care at first to make sure you don't overwater. Get yourself a watering can from any store and carefully get the surface of the dirt completely wet. You should be putting enough water in there so that you can see just a little exit as water runoff. As your plants grow, you will be using more and more water.

Eventually you are going to be dumping water into your potted plants because the root structure has gotten so large. The more water you can use without over watering them the better. It's definitely a delicate balance but you will get the hang of this. The author has never had a plant die because of overwatering but has seen some plants' leaves droop as a result of too much. Scroll down to the common problems section for more info on what it looks like if you are over watering your plants. You don't want your plant sitting in water all the time. This leads to root rot and bug problems, maybe even mold at times. Ideally, you will be watering your plants about every few days depending on how they look. It's always better to under water your plants versus over watering them. If the first two inches of soil are dry then you probably are ready to water them again. When you start to flower your crop, and the root system is very elaborate, they are going to soak up water like you won't believe. This is perfect! Give it to them! Water is one of the most essential elements of growing marijuana. Under watering leads to smaller yields and less healthy plants that don't grow as fast. You want to be as efficient as possible, so don't be stingy on the watering.

Nutrients

A plant that is properly dosed with nutrients will be a healthy plant. Different nutrients will need to be used during the different stages of Marijuana plants growing. During the vegging stage, you do not need to use anything special for the first few weeks, especially if you have bought some soil like Happy Frog or the equivalent competitors soil. These soils are already infused with all the nutrients you need for the vegging plant. After the first few weeks, go to your local grow store or shop online and get yourself an "Organic" vegging nutrient supplement. Don't go out and buy 10 different types of nutrients though. All you need is one supplement for vegging and a different one for flowering plants. Make sure you are purchasing an organic one though as this will prevent you from getting nutrient burn on your plants. Synthetic nutrients can be detrimental to the plant if you use too much, organics can't. The saying is that synthetic nutrients feed the plant and organics feed the soil. After you purchase your preferred nutrient supplement, make sure to follow the recommended dosages on the bottle.

Marijuana is a weed and will grow in virtually any type of medium with just about any dirt and nutrient combination. Be cautious and don't fall into the expensive and unnecessary practice of inundating your plants with nutrients you don't need. A great strategy is to use just one particular nutrient line. Again, they can be found in virtually any grow store.

The Smell

The smell of your grow could be of either great concern to you or not a concern at all depending on your living situation. Marijuana plants do smell though and even one or two plants can potentially stink up your house. The marijuana clones smell, the vegging plants smell, and the plants with huge buds on them smell. There is no way that you can avoid a smell when you are growing cannabis. The only thing you can do is either mask the smell or

use proper ventilation and ducting which will take the air from your grow room directly outside. Certain strains smell stronger than others but as a general rule, expect the growing marijuana to smell and either prepare for it or maybe it just isn't a big deal to you. If you do have a problem with the smell then purchase a carbon filter. There are many different types of carbon filters though. You are going to have to evaluate your growing area and the fans you are using and purchase one or two based on your needs. You can purchase carbon filters, or sacks of carbon from any grow store, Walmart, or home improvement location. Place the carbon behind an exit fan so that it pulls the smelly air through the carbon filter and then outside. This will completely kill the smell or make it manageable.

Chapter 2 Overview: Find a location to grow your marijuana, the right size pot, good soil with nutrients, the right lighting, ventilation and WATER WATER WATER.

Chapter 3 Picking out the plants, seeds, clones

Now you've gotten to the cool part! You have things pretty well set up in your grow room and now you need some plants. You have basically two options here in Colorado and that is to use seeds or clones. The author uses almost exclusively clones instead of seeds. When growing marijuana, you always want to have female plants. Female plants do not produce seeds while Male plants do. In fact, males are killed immediately so as not to pollinate the female plant which produces unwanted seeds in the bud...embarrassing.



When you choose to purchase clones, or baby marijuana plants, make sure that the clone you buy was taken from a female plant. This will ensure that you only grow female plants. If you grow a male plant for a month before realizing it's a male then you have wasted valuable time and resources on a worthless plant for yield purposes. Clones from female plants will always be female and a good way to get started.

Another reason to start with clones is that someone else has already done the hard part for you. They have made the cutting or grown the plant from seed, cared for it for at least two weeks or more, put it into a small cup with dirt and allowed it to root. All that takes effort that you probably don't have time for. The author has found success buying most clones for between 10-15 dollars at clone dispensaries. The kind of buying and selling of clones on Craigslist is a very gray area as far as how legal it is. Be aware of the laws in your area. Sometimes, with a little research, you can also find dispensaries running specials and you may be able to get a great deal on some clones. Going to the dispensary is also a safer way to make sure that the strain you purchased is actually the strain they say it is. Also, make sure to check the root system of the clone and be sure that it is free of any parasites or diseases. The clones should be in dirt generally and if you see any sign of any webs (looks

like spiderwebs) or bugs on them then it should not be purchased. The leaves should be green and not droopy. A common practice for commercial cloners is to cut the fan leaves in half to save room in the tray, so this is normal to see cut leaves. The clones should stand up on their own and show signs of growth. Don't worry if some of the leaves show signs of overwatering or have burn marks on them. Just make sure that the plant otherwise looks healthy. The author has never had a clone die on him and you shouldn't either if you follow this guide. Also, with a clone, you already know it's strong enough to handle the beginning stresses of growing. When the author gets a clone, the first thing he does is transplant it into a larger pot or bucket. They usually come in small cups or containers that aren't suitable for the plant to continue to grow in. The transplanting process is pretty straightforward and easy. Just get your 5 gallon bucket, or whatever you are using, and fill it halfway with dirt. Turn the clone upside down while holding it's base with your fingers. Make sure to gently squeeze the pot and dislodge the clone, roots, and dirt from it's cup and place it on top of the halfway filled pot. Place dirt around the clone until you have completely buried the initial dirt and root system. Make sure to water the clone right after it's been transplanted but be careful not to overwater as the plant hasn't had a chance to grow it's roots out into the new dirt yet. Overwatering is common at this stage. Be sure to check out the common problems section to see what overwatering looks like.

Yes, you can start with seeds but in the end, you pay about as much as if you had just purchased a clone, not to mention the time you've burned waiting for the seed to germinate and start to grow. Also, with seeds, you never know if your plant is going to make it through the most difficult part of it's life, surviving childhood. Now a days you can purchase feminized seeds which means the plant will automatically grow up female. If you use seeds, go this route.



That's about all there is to transplanting and caring for baby marijuana plants. Place it under the light you purchased and keep it on for 24 hours a day. This is what is called the vegging cycle and will be explained in more detail in the "Vegging Section" of this guide.

Chapter 3 Overview: Find the right seeds or plants, transplanting, water and lighting



Chapter 4 The Actual Growing Process

Types of Growing Methods

This is a section that could be very long in a different growing manual. The author believes that every new grower should start out growing in soil. You could gradually gain more experience growing hydroponically but this is more complex and more prone to human error. Growing hydroponically requires no soil, only nutrients and water that must be mixed together in the right amounts at the right time to feed the plant. The author has seen no evidence that either growing method produces any more yield than the other. Stick with soil for now and you will easily grow great yields with less effort than it would take hydroponically.

Vegging Cycle

Okay, so now your clones or seeds have grown a little bit and have been put into their final pot. You are now ready to veg your plants. This is pretty easy once you get the hang of it. This is the time when your lights are going to be on the plants for 24 hours a day. A lot of people will tell you that the plants need 18 hours of light and 6 hours of darkness but this hasn't been the authors experience. The plants do not need a dark time and can use the 6 more hours per day of great light to grow under.

During this state you are just monitoring. The hard work has been done. Keep watering your plants and check for any developing problems. You should start to develop beautiful plants that will eventually provide you with a huge yield. There are a number of options here in the vegging cycle for how long to keep your plant in this stage. I will give you two growing scenarios and you can hopefully gauge how long you will veg them by these examples.

Example 1.

You are growing in a closet, your plant can't get very tall, and you need to be discrete. In this case you need a plant that won't grow too large and tall. Later on in this chapter you will find instructions on techniques to keep the plant from growing too tall besides a shorter veg cycle. So, to avoid a tall plant, you should veg it for a shorter period of time. Maybe 3 weeks to a month. The only bad part of vegging for only a month or less is that the plant won't be able to have time to grow those juicy bud spots you need to have a big yield. As a general rule, the longer you veg your plants, the larger they will be and the higher the yield will be.

Example 2.

You are growing a few plants and have all the time and space in the world to work with. It would be the author's recommendation to veg the plants for as long as possible. Potentially 2 months or more. Again, you aren't worried about how big or tall the plant gets. You will end up with a huge plant and after 2 months of flowering you could potentially get a pound or more of yield. Compare that to a few ounces from a plant that has been vegged for a month or so.

In general, the standard vegging time frames are from 1 to 1.5 months under normal circumstances. If you stick around that number then you will be successful. The author knows of a grower who uses 1 1000W HPS light and one plant and after 2 months of vegging and two months of flowering, he can get approximately 502 grams or over 1 pound from each plant. Patience is key. If you have the space then you want to veg for as long as you can.





Chapter 4 Overview: Vegging Cycle, determine your yields

Chapter 5 Keeping Your Plants In Check During The Vegging Cycle

Cropping

Cropping, when done correctly can save you a lot of time and effort later trying to control a massive marijuana plant in your closet. Basically with cropping, you are either trying to control the growth of your plant, force it to grow in a certain way, or try to make it produce more bud sites. There are various methods of doing this and they will be explained in detail below. The author has only listed the ones that he uses on a daily grow basis.

Low Stress Training (LST)

Lets say you have a small space and need to grow a small plant. Well, the marijuana plant is just going to grow up as long as you allow it to. What the author does to take advantage of a small grow space where the plant can't get too tall is to use Low Stress Training or LST. After you have transplanted your clone into a suitable adult pot and it has been allowed to grow roots for a week or so, you are ready to bend it over and prevent it from growing too tall. You want to be careful though as once the stalk gets too thick, you cannot bend it in the shape you want anymore as it will just snap. So keep that in mind when you are beginning to use LST training. What the author does is gently grab a fan leaf from the tip of the plant and gently bends the plant down and actually tapes the fan leaf to the base of the pot. You can use this method or any other way to bend the plant down. Some people use string and others use some heavier object to force the plant down. Don't worry, this doesn't hurt the plant if you do it right. This essentially pushes the main portion of the plant so it's more horizontal rather than vertical. This sets the plant to grow *out* instead of *up*. When you use LST training, you will notice that once you have taped the plant down, the side branches will start to expand upwards and turn into main stalks. Make sure to tape these ones down as well until you run out of room at the base of the pot . At this point just let your plant grow. The author has had plants only grow to be a foot or two in length with this method. They will be very bushy and short which, depending on your grow area, could be exactly what you need.



Super Cropping

Super cropping is another way to prevent your plants from growing too tall or just to make them the same height as all your other plants. It consists of gently squeezing and twisting your stalks so that it doesn't destroy them but makes them droop. Essentially what is happening is the stalk is being crushed to the point that the rigidity of it is destroyed but the plant can continue to push nourishment through the channels of the stalk. The area where you have crushed and twisted the stem will form a small hard ball as a result. It does not appear to damage the plant except for make it look kind of odd. Doing super cropping should be done at least a few weeks before flowering. While it doesn't damage the plant, once your plant hits the flowering stage, you want it to have recovered to 100%



There are other methods to cropping however you shouldn't mess with a plant unless you need to control its size or shape. The author has noticed that doing LST training and super cropping too much has a temporary negative impact on the plant. The plant will show similar signs of overwatering if impacted too much by cropping. If you don't have to worry about how big or tall your plants are then just let your babies grow!

Flowering Cycle

The flowering cycle is the most exciting, yet long, portion of growing marijuana. It is in this phase that you will start to see your hard work pay off. This is the last phase in the marijuana growing cycle. It is very similar to the vegging stage except that you will put your lights on a timer so that they are on for 12 hours and off for 12 hours. What this does is essentially trick your indoor plants into believing that summer is drawing to a close and that they better hurry and produce nice big buds for you. You want to start flowering your plants when you are done with the vegging cycle. This is usually determined by size. Many new growers don't realize this but your plants will continue to grow taller and bushier as they flower. New bud spots will develop, leaves will get bigger, etc. Make sure to start flowering your plant when it's about half the size you want it to be once done with flowering.

It is at this stage that you may use flowering nutrients instead of the nutrients you used during vegging.

You will be able to tell that the plants have produced buds by first noticing the small white pistil hairs that start to form on the bud spots. These small, delicate masses will continue to grow and grow for about 2 months. It's hard to ascertain when your plants will be done flowering though. It's kind of a touchy feely thing to know when they are ready to come down. More on this in a section coming up!

Water Water Water. They will probably soak up more water than you ever thought possible. Give it to them. They need it. Dose with "Flowering" nutrients according to your schedule and watch the fan leaves and look for signs of distress. You will do this until you believe you are about 2 weeks away from harvesting. Around the 5-6 week mark you will start to notice that the fan leaves are starting to droop and turn yellow. **THIS IS NORMAL.** The plant is putting all of it's own nutrients into the buds to make them bigger and more potent. It is also typically during flowering where something might be going wrong. Watch for any plants to switch from being female to male. This is not common but if the plant feels stressed out, it will panic and try to self fertilize itself, or switch from being a female to essentially a female/male plant. The plant does this to self fertilize itself which is NOT what you want. This means that your bud will have seeds in it. Plants get stressed out for a number of different reasons. It's hard to pinpoint exactly what went wrong but some common reasons cited for plants self fertilizing is that they are getting too much light during the "Lights Off" portion of flowering, lack of water, damage to the plant, trimming too late into flower, etc. During flower, you want to keep the same cycle going as you had when you were vegging them. Check soil for dryness and monitor the color of the leaves and buds. Other than that, now it's a waiting game for when the plant is done and ready to be cut down. A special section has been added to this guide called, "The Last Two Weeks" because this is the most important part of flowering your marijuana plants. A lot can go wrong during this time so it's essential that you pour over the info in that section to minimize problems that could potentially ruin all the money and hard work that you put into growing your crops.

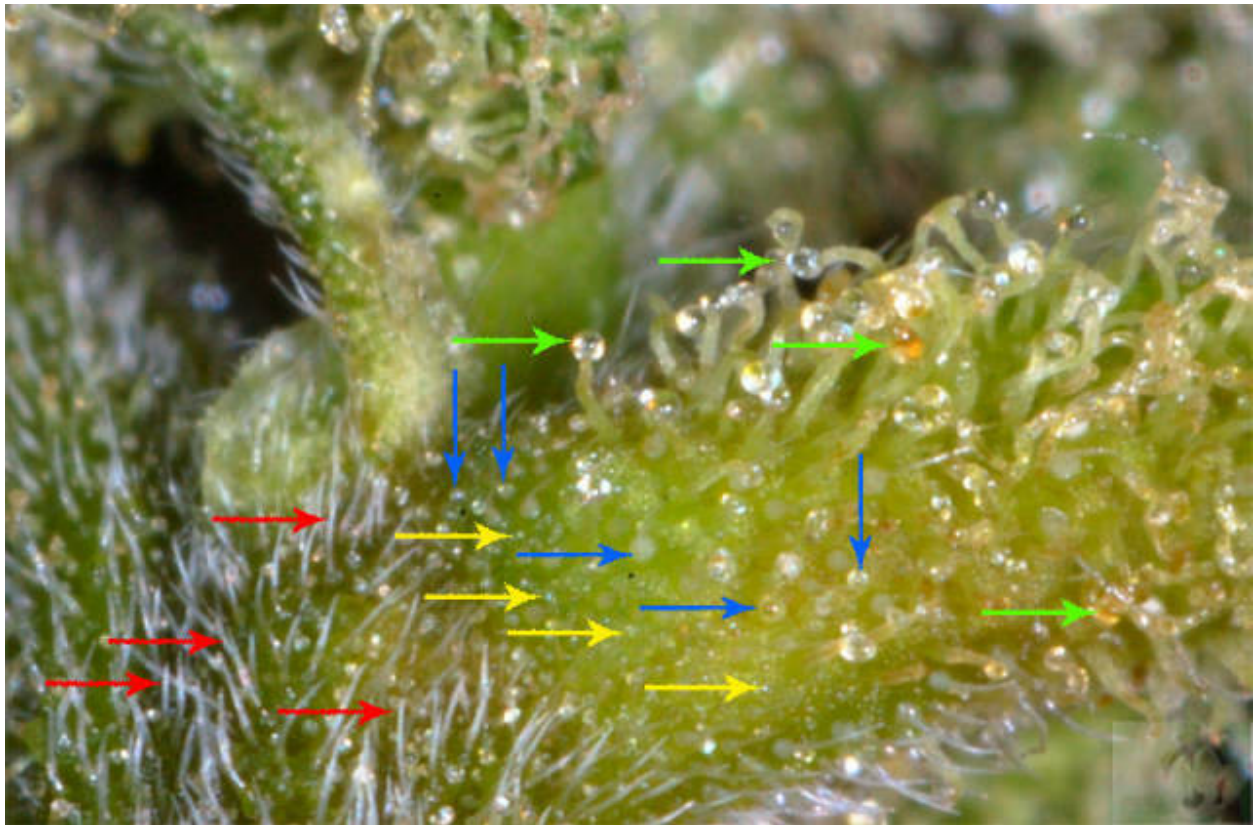


The Last Two Weeks

The leaves are all yellow, the buds look swollen, your grow room reeks of great smelling weed, the buds' pistils are all brown, and you have come to the realization that you have about 2 weeks left until harvest. This is the best part about growing. The anticipation should be rising within you as you realize that you are literally days away from harvesting all those tasty buds you have been growing for so long. It is at this time that most growers start to flush their plants. Flushing the plant means that you stop using nutrients and only water the plant heavily. The idea behind flushing is to get as many of the nutrients out of the bud as possible to prevent the yield from burning unevenly and tasting bitter. The author does not add any synthetic nutrients to the plants during growing so has no need to flush them. You only have to flush them if you're using synthetic nutrients.



Keep watering the plants as before and keep them under the light. This might be difficult as the plants at this stage are about as tall as they are going to get. They can sometimes get too tall and if you are doing things right, the branches will be so full of bud that they bend over under the weight. A great way to keep the buds in the light where they belong is to use chicken wire or tomato cages. Wrap it around the plant and keep it contained so the buds aren't breaking branches or hitting the floor. Other than that, just be patient. One of the biggest mistakes most new growers make is to harvest too early. As you can see from the pictures, you will need to buy a 40X power magnifying glass to check on the trichomes of your plant. If you don't know what trichomes are, they are basically the frost on the plant. At first, the frost will be completely clear under the magnifying glass then they will turn opaque or white. Once all the trichomes are white and some are amber looking, chop the plants down. This is perhaps the saddest time. You have worked so hard and checked on your plants 3 times a day for 3-4 months and now you must end their lives and harvest what you have built. But you get over that very quickly when you see what you have grown.



The next two sections can make or break your harvest. You could get a lb per plant but if you don't dry it and cure it correctly then your weed could easily smell and taste like alfalfa or hay. A few new purchases need to be made for the drying and curing process but trust me, you will want to have them in order to produce the best smelling and tasting weed in your life.

Chapter 5 Overview: Cropping, Flowering, Last 2 Weeks...Monitor Monitor Monitor

Chapter 6 Drying and Curing

Drying

Okay, now you are ready to harvest! By this time you should have purchased a pair of gardening shears. Maybe even two if your significant other is planning on helping you! They cost about \$6 dollars and can be purchased from Amazon.com very easily. At this point you will want to find a space that will be specifically dedicated to drying your crop. The author finds a bathroom to be ideal as it is small and the humidity can be monitored at all times and changed very rapidly. There is something called a weed rack that can be purchased for about \$50 on Craigslist that can simplify the drying process but they aren't necessary. What the author does is make cuttings in somewhat of a V shape off the plant. This is done so that they can easily be hung from the shower curtain for instance. This works for a lot of the branches but there are going to be some that just can't be cut into a V shape and must be straight branches. What you can do is tape string from one side of the room to the other and hang the V shaped branches and tape the straight ones to the string. It doesn't really matter how you hang them, what is most important is that they be placed so they aren't touching each other and that the humidity stays around 60-65%. You will need a hygrometer to constantly be checking the humidity within your drying room. It needs to be between 60-65 degrees at all times. This is important because you want your weed to dry as slowly and safely as possible without creating mold. If you keep the humidity between 60-65%, you won't have mold. Anything higher than 70% is asking for trouble. Because this is a guide for growing in Colorado, it's important to know that the humidity here is too low to correctly dry marijuana. It will dry too fast unless a humidifier is purchased. Buy one that you can see the humidity leaving the humidifier. They can be purchased very cheaply on Craigslist or even at Walmart. At the time of this publication, you can get an excellent one for around \$30-\$40 dollars. They are worth every penny and will make your smoke much smoother and tastier.

So, you've made your cuttings and hung them. That is all you will do for 48 hours besides monitor the humidity within the drying room. Don't cut the fan leaves off or do anything else besides hang them in the dedicated room. The fan leaves will wilt and cover the bud which will allow it to dry slower, which is the point. Dry as slow as possible. After 48 hours you will

cut the fan leaves off all the bud and store them in the freezer in a plastic bag. More about what to do with fan leaves is coming up.

At this point you will really need those garden shears to trim the bud. Don't over complicate things though. Just take off the green part of any leaves contained within the bud that aren't covered in those THC filled trichomes. Basically, if it has white frost on part of the leaf then leave it on there as you will get higher from smoking it. Most of the time you will be cutting just the tips of these leaves from the bud, leaving the rest of the frosty leaf intact. Don't worry though, the green leafy parts of the bud will shrink as you continue the drying process. Your bud will still look like really great stuff. You want to save all the green parts that you have cut off from the bud. This is called "Trim" and is very valuable when making edibles or hash which will be covered in detail in another guide.



After you have removed the fan leaves and trim, hang the bud back up on the rack for about 6-7 more days. Remember to keep checking the humidity and make sure it's between 60-65%. Let the bud just hang there to dry. Don't mess with it, just make sure to have a fan blowing evenly in all directions so the buds get plenty of fresh air. Kind of like the fan used to blow your leaves around when growing but less of an intense air flow. A slight breeze is all you want. You essentially just want to prevent any stagnant spots that a mold spore could possibly call home. Once the 7-8 days is over, you are ready to jar your weed and cure it! You are almost done! Don't quit now!



Curing

Curing is pretty easy. It has been overcomplicated from all the different techniques on the internet. You will be able to smoke some of your weed now. In fact, that's what most growers and dispensaries do with their weed after drying. Rarely do they ever fully utilize the curing method as it takes too long. Don't be like them though and make sure to pay attention to the curing process as this is what is going to make your marijuana smell and taste absolutely fantastic. Be prepared with a lot of 100% sealable jars though. Go to Walmart and pick up a dozen or so Mason jars in a package for \$12. They are cheap and you will need them for every grow you have. Worth the investment. Take some or all of the weed and cut the individual buds off the branches and collect them into the jars. Leave a little space at the top for a hygrometer. You can get hygrometers for about \$10 each at reptile pet stores. Place one in as many jars as you have hygrometers for and wait a few hours. If the hygrometer reads 70% or higher then you want to open the top of the jar and shake it and place it back in the drying room for another half day or so with the top off. You don't want to start the curing process at 70% or higher humidity. If it's too high then place it back in the drying room and keep sealing the lid every half day or so until you see that the humidity reading settles at less

than 70%. On every grow the author has done, he has had to place a few jars back in the drying room to dry out more. Its common. For the jars that are under 70% humidity, you are going to want to burp them several times a day outside of the drying room. Burping means taking the top off the jar, mixing the buds up so they don't get stagnant and let it sit for 15 minutes in the open air. What you are doing during the curing process is taking the marijuana from 65-69% humidity to 55%. Every time you take the top off the jar and let it sit, you are essentially releasing humidity from the buds into the environment. This process can take a week or so until you arrive at the magical 55% humidity number. At this point your weed is 100% ready to smoke, but seal it in a jar for a few more weeks and you will have the best weed on the block! The longer it cures at around 55% the better. Congratulations! You did it!



Time Frame to end result

This is entirely dependent on how big you grow your plants to be. If your growing one plant in a closet, then you are probably going to veg it for a month or less and flower it for 2 months for a total of 3 months. The drying and curing is typically the same for a big or small plant and takes about a month total. So a best case scenario is that your weed is 100% ready in about 4 months. The author has seen growers veg plants for 2 months and flower them for 2 as well. Massive yields are possible in this case, greater than a pound. But in that case from clone to smoke would take about 5 months. The longer you veg the plant the higher the yield will be.

Chapter 6 Overview: Cutting, drying and curing. Patience!

Chapter 7 Common Problems and Solutions

Nutrient Burn

Nutrient burn can look like just about any problem when growing marijuana. It can be noticed usually at first by the tips of the fan leaves turning yellow and brittle. If you are seeing anything but lush green leaves then you know you have an issue that needs attention. Now, a few fan leaves turning yellow or a few leaves dying on you is absolutely normal. I'm talking about the majority of the leaves showing signs of distress. The first thing to do if you see any of these signs is to immediately stop supplementing your waterings with synthetic nutrients. Give them about a week with just water or organic nutrients and you should see the lush green returning to the new fan leaves. The damaged fan leaves will never look the same and should be plucked. Now, if you have dosed entirely too much and your plant is in obvious distress, don't panic. Get some more soil and transplant immediately or flush the plant. There are several types of flushing agents that can be purchased which will help carry the excess nutrients out of the plants system. Watering heavily after the transplant is essential to get the excess nutrients out of your plants system. Don't make the same mistake you made in the first place after fixing a nutrient problem. If you still want to use synthetic nutrients then cut your nutrient feed by half and see how that goes. Never use the full amount of nutrients contained on the label on your bottle when using synthetics. Use a third or at max a half.







Overwatering

This is a super common problem and will manifest itself in the form of drooping leaves. Overwatering is super easy to do and super easy to cure. Just stop watering for a few days until you notice the leaves perking back up. If your plant is in obvious distress over the over watering, than a simple fix is to transplant the plant into fresh new dry soil. Monitor the plant for a few days after transplant to make sure it doesn't overly dry out though. You should water your marijuana plants heavily but only if they need it. You can tell if they need water if the first couple of inches of dirt is bone dry. The author ends up needing to water his plants about once every other day depending on a number of variables.



Underwatering

This is also a pretty easy problem to have when growing cannabis. It manifests itself by drooping leaves as well. But you will know if it's under watering opposed to over watering because the soil will be dry and crumbly. If it's wet and the leaves are drooping then you know it's probably over watering. Make sense? The solution to this problem is to give your starving plant some water! Water is one of the main key ingredients that the plant absolutely needs. If you are stingy on the watering then your plants won't grow to their potential and your yields will be small. Also, if you are using nutrients and under watering, it is very easy to burn the leaves like when we discussed nutrient burn because there is no water but high doses of nutrients in the soil.



Light Burn

You know you have light burn if your leaves start to curl upwards. Take your hand and place it where the leaves are curling upwards and see if it's too hot after 30 seconds. The solution to this problem is easy, just raise your light or purchase a less intense light if raising it isn't an option. Light burn can also be caused by a bad bulb. Make sure when you purchase a bulb that it hasn't been used too often. Bulbs, at least 1000W HPS, should last you two grows and that's about it. After two grows, get yourself new bulbs. If your bulb is bad then you will see signs of light burn, twisted leaves, and some symptoms of nutrient burn.



Root Rot

Root rot is normally seen in hydroponic systems as a result of them being grown in water 24/7 but it can happen in soil systems if you are consistently watering too much. You will see the first signs of root rot by wilting leaves and perhaps what looks like nutrient burn. Your fan leaves will also start dying. Root rot needs bacteria and a wet environment to grow so to combat this problem, stop watering for a few days and let the soil dry out or transplant your plant into a new grow medium. Fresh dry soil should help you out. Root rot can be dangerous because it looks like overwatering or underwatering when in actuality, your plant's roots are turning brown and dying. It is also pretty common if you are using a very small container and your plant is too big for it. You would be surprised how elaborate and large the root structure is within your plants. The roots grow to be just as big as the plant. If it's in a large enough pot, the roots will just curl around the edges of the pot. If it's in a small pot then the roots tend to have nowhere to go and root rot can occur.



Parasites

There are a few parasites that afflict marijuana plants. Normally, you don't just get parasites on your own plants. They come from where you got the clone from. Not everyone is careful with their clones and practises good growing techniques. So be careful where you get your supplies. Check them first. Check all your new clones before you buy them for anything abnormal. Little spider mite webs, little holes in your leaves, etc. Anything remotely close to looking like a parasite infestation in a clone or plant should not be purchased. Prevention is way better in this case than the eradication of parasites. There are too many parasites to list here in this simple guide. Some of the more common ones are spider mites and fungus gnats. It's best to avoid purchasing clones or plants already affected by parasites but it can happen no matter how careful you are. The solution to eradicating parasites is beyond the scope of this manual. All over the internet can be found great techniques to eliminate particular parasites from your crop.



What Is Normal

Okay, after listing everything that can go wrong with your plant, you're probably wondering how anyone can grow normal marijuana plants. If something goes wrong, or at least looks wrong, it might be normal after all. It is extraordinarily common for some leaves to come out

twisted, some to turn yellow, some to have spots on them, etc. It becomes an issue however when the majority of the leaves are twisted, falling off, or turning yellow. You can still have great plants with a few misguided fan leaves. Marijuana is a weed and will grow in pretty much any environment.

Chapter 7 Overview

Pay attention to your clones, teens, mother plants, and general grow area. Make sure the leaves are healthy. Some leaves may wilt and die but as long as the vast majority of the leaves look healthy, your plants should be okay



Chapter 8 What to do with your marijuana when done

Can You Sell It?

Well, this is a sticky subject isn't it? Can you sell your marijuana in the great state of Colorado? Technically you can't sell it unless you are a dispensary. But if you deliver an eighth of an ounce to a friend and he gives you \$35, is he paying for the marijuana or the act of delivery to his house? That is a question that will for sure be settled in a Colorado court

within the next few years. Right now there are hundreds of people offering “Delivery” services for marijuana on Craigslist. Many of them are home growers like you, and many are commercial growers with pounds of extra yield for sale. If you do decide to risk it and go this route then make sure to respect the laws of other states. Not everyone believes that marijuana is helpful or even worth having on this planet. Many states will lock you in prison for years for transporting or shipping marijuana across state lines.

Donate it

Well, this is the least cost effective method but you can freely give your marijuana away to basically anyone over the age of 21 as long as it's an ounce or less if they are non red card holders and 2 ounces to any medical patient.

Smoke it

Duh!



Other Ways To Use Marijuana

You can very easily make your extra marijuana into cookies, concentrates, hash, shatter, or wax. If you decide to go this route then make sure to use the extra trim you have as well. This is a valuable source of THC. As to how to make edibles or concentrates, that is beyond the scope of this guide and will have to be covered in future releases.



What To Do With Fan Leaves

You really can't do anything with the fan leaves per say. They don't contain enough THC to smoke and thus edibles or concentrates are out of the question as well. So why did I have you put them in a bag and into your freezer? Some people out there do something called marijuana juicing. This is not ordinary juicing, it's actually juicing the fan leaves for important chemicals and nutrients that help some with diseases such as lupus and multiple sclerosis. You can find someone looking for fan leaves on Craigslist. Just throw up an ad and mention that you have extra fan leaves for those juicers out there. The author just donates them to a gentleman named Chris who uses them as frequently as he can to alleviate his pain from multiple sclerosis. He will even come to your grow room and pick them up for you. If you are interested, his email address is energy4you100@gmail.com. It's 100% legal to do this so don't worry. Just pay attention to how much you give away as the same "Ounce" rules apply to fan leaves. The author feels that since they are of no value to most people, that they should be given away for free to those that are looking for an alternative to high powered pharmaceuticals. Just his opinion though.



Chapter 8 Overview

There are a lot of different ways to get rid of or consume your marijuana. You could sell it, donate it, smoke it, or make edibles. The fan leaves can be donated to those in need as they are virtually useless to most people.

Chapter 9 - Conclusion

All,

The author would love to hear your feedback either positive or negative about this guide. He spent a lot of time trying to eliminate the unneeded or unnecessary steps and costs associated with growing marijuana. Some of them are controversial and others aren't but the author has had extraordinary success using only the methods shown in this guide. If you are in another state and wish to grow marijuana, the author strongly urges you to either become a red card holder in that particular state or be very careful. As said before, prison time is not worth it and if you're growing in a non legal state, you need to assume all risks and liabilities. Thank you and lets keep the legalization of Cannabis growing and prospering. The author believes that this is just a small step towards the legalization of all helpful drugs. Imagine what could be done if all the money being spent to eradicate drugs like marijuana, cocaine, and morphine from the country were to be spent on rehabilitation centers, research into potential cures from these never before researched drugs, and after school programs to keep kids enjoying themselves safely. It is the authors hope that you can join him in helping to dispel the negativity towards marijuana and other helpful drugs. Happy Growing!